

REMARKS

This is in response to the final office action mailed March 31, 2011, in which claim 28 was objected to and claims 16 – 17 were rejected. With this amendment, claim 28 is canceled, claim 1 is amended, and claims 16 – 22 are presented for allowance.

In the office action, claims 16 – 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ersek (U.S. Pat. No. 3,710,789) in view of Cottone (EP 0 819 413). Claim 28 was objected to as being dependent on rejected claim 16, but was indicated as representing allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form. While the applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 16 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), claim 16 is amended to incorporate the subject matter previously presented in claim 28 (now canceled). Amended claim 16 presents no new matter. As indicated by the office action, amended claim 16 is patentable over the references of record. Claim 17, as well as withdrawn claims 18 – 22, depend from claim 16 and therefore, are allowable when submitted therewith.

In view of the foregoing, all of the pending claims 16 – 17 and withdrawn claims 18 – 22 are in a condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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